WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION
Office of Supply
425 Wilson Building
Dallas 1, Texas

Approximate Time
First Part 5 Minutes
Second Part 3½ Minutes
June 17, 1945
No. 25

1. MUSIC: UP AND UNDER

2. ANNOUNCER: Radio Station _____ presents...FOOD FRONT HEADLINES...a behind-the-scene story on how our food moves from farms to battle lines...from ships to Allied supply depots... from grocery shelves to civilian tables...and here with the latest on what civilians will be eating the next few weeks is _____, War Food Administration's district representative. Food's always a good topic of conversation, _____, even when only two people get together. So, how about letting us in on the latest.

3. DIST. REP: I guess about the latest I know, _____, is the amount of meat civilians are going to be eating during the next three months.

4. ANNOUNCER: You mean during July, August and September?

5. DIST. REP: Yes, it's what War Food Administration calls third quarter allocations. They were announced several days ago. Every three months, allocations are given out for the leading foods, and meat is about the first one that's under the wire so far.

6. ANNOUNCER: The others ought to be coming along soon, I suppose.

7. DIST. REP: Just any day now.

8. ANNOUNCER: When you speak of allocations...what you're actually saying, is that our total food supplies are divided among all claimant groups so each will get a fair share of the total.

9. DIST. REP: That's all it amounts to. And in the case of meat, for the next three months, it means dividing up so the army will get what it needs...and so civilians will get their share, too.

10. ANNOUNCER: There's not going to be much change in the amounts we'll get, is there?

11. DIST. REP: According to the figure, I have, _____, there won't be much. The proportion of different kinds of meats...this includes beef, mutton, lamb, veal and pork...will stay about the same as they were during April, May and June.

12. ANNOUNCER: But even if the over-all supply isn't any larger, there might be some difference in distribution. I was thinking, for instance, of the fifty cents per 100 pounds subsidy program to beef feeders, which is expected to help bring about a more equal distribution of meat.

13. DIST. REP: That's one of the main reasons behind the program. Then, if other plans work out as they're expected to, more meat will be showing up in federally inspected plants. Naturally, this will help out on distribution because federally inspected meats can move across one state line to another.

14. ANNOUNCER: How about the amount going to the armed forces? Is their take as high for the next three months as it has been?

15. DIST. REP: Not quite. In fact, what they're taking this time runs about nine percent less than for the last three months. This includes meats for the army, the navy, also the Marines and the Coast Guard, Marine Hospitals, the Veterans Administration and the War Shipping Administration. In addition, what they're taking will be enough to furnish small quantities to civilians who're working for the army overseas, for prisoners of war, and for certain elements of Allied armies.

16. ANNOUNCER: But the fact the armed forces have cut down a little on what they'll need, should help ease the civilian shortage.

17. DIST. REP: That...plus the fact we're not making any foreign shipments for the next three months should help.

18. ANNOUNCER: This means that during the next three months no meats will go for relief feeding, and none for export to the United Kingdom and Russia.

19. DIST. REP: That's right. Livestock marketing is always low during the second and third quarters every year. But more so during the three months of July, August and September. This is always a slack period.

20. ANNOUNCER: Up until now, relatively large amounts of meat have been going into other countries, haven't they?

21. DIST. REP: Fairly large, yes. And if marketings step up later, and if the distribution of civilian meat in this country improves, then it's probable these shipments will be started up again later on. For the first half of this year, the United States will have shipped around 800-million pounds of meats, mostly to the Soviet Republics and the United Kingdom.

22. ANNOUNCER: But while we're shipping this much to them, about the same amount for the year is going to our armed forces from Australian, New Zeland and Argentine production.

23. DIST. REP: That's right. And in all probability, if meat weren't going to our armed forces from these meat producing countries, then they'd be taking a heavier slice of American meats.

24. ANNOUNCER: Another thing that's helping out is Canadian meat that's going into the United Kingdom. Canada has contracted to send so many million pounds of bacon and meat this year to the United Kingdom, and she may go over what she's contracted to do.

25. DIST. REP: She certainly went over the mark last year. Canada will also send a lot of canned meat to help feed liberated areas. A lot of this has already been shipped and she might go over the contract in this kind of meat, too.

26. ANNOUNCER: 'Course I know it's a little early to be saying exactly how much meat will be produced for the whole year, but on the basis of what's already been allocated, and future prospects, how does the total supply stack up _____?

27. DIST. REP: If everything pans out as expected, total production this year will run right at 22 and five-tenths billion pounds, dressed meat. This will be about nine percent under last year's record, but about 39 percent above what we ate the 10 years just before we got into war.

28. ANNOUNCER: The drop in hogs...which was necessary because of smaller feed reserves...accounts for some of the drop, doesn't it?

29. DIST. REP: Definitely. Hog slaughter has been down all year and probably will be for the next three months.

30. ANNOUNCER: Then it'll start going up.

31. DIST. REP: Yes. On the other hand cattle slaughter is already up. It'll reach an all-time high this year.

32. ANNOUNCER: Don't we always slaughter around 25-million head?

33. DIST. REP: Before the war, that was the average. Now it'll run right at 35-million head, including cattle and calves.

34. ANNOUNCER: Meanwhile, we can't expect the meat situation to change too drastically in the near future. Demand will probably out-distance supply for several months. Thanks, _____, for being with us today. Listen next _____ to FOOD FRONT HEADLINES...presented as a public service feature by Radio Station _____ in cooperation with War Food Administration, to bring you inside facts from authoritative sources about what's happening on the agricultural firing line.

NOTE TO DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE: IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN FIVE MINUTES, CUT CUE NO. 34 AND CONTINUE WITH CUE NO. 35.

35. ANNOUNCER: Wouldn't it be a lot better if more than that went to slaughter this year?

36. DIST. REP: Let's look at the different kinds of cattle we have on ranges and see where we stand on that question.

37. ANNOUNCER: OK, shoot.

38. DIST. REP: According to the latest count I have, there are 81-million head in the country.

39. ANNOUNCER: I suppose that includes everything...cattle, calves, bulls and beef stuff.

40. DIST. REP: Yes, it does. Of the 81-million head, right at a third of them are dairy cows...cows we need to keep up production of milk, butter, cheese and so forth.

41. ANNOUNCER: I guess there are a few million head of dairy calves, too.

42. DIST. REP: About 13-million. They're heifer calves adn will be needed in the future to replace older dairy cows that are in production now.

43. ANNOUNCER: That soon adds up to a lot, doesn't it?

44. DIST. REP: You bet, it does. Not quite half of every head we've got, but pretty close to it. Now, let's look at what we have left.

45. ANNOUNCER: OK, go ahead.

46. DIST. REP: Of the remaining half, there are a couple of million bulls... 14-million head of breeding stock, that're needed to keep up beef cattle herds...Then there are nearly 8-million steers...and the rest are heifers and calves.

47. ANNOUNCER: That just about gets what's left, doesn't it?

48. DIST. REP: Yes. So the top figure which can safely be sent to market this year, without hurting future beef hopes, is the 35-million head we mentioned awhile ago. About 22-million head of cattle and 13-million head of calves.

49. ANNOUNCER: If these 35-million do go to market, as they're expected to, then that would cut the national figure down to about 76 or 77 million head.

50. DIST. REP: That's right. And at the same time producers would meet the goal that's set up for them this year on cattle marketings.

51. ANNOUNCER: But this extra million going to slaughter this year won't change the over-all picture very much.

52. DIST. REP: No, it won't, but it will help off-set the drop in other slaughterings. The amount of meat that's been allocated for civilians during July, August and September, on the basis of carcass weight, would provide about 115 pounds of meat per person per year, the same as the allocation in the second quarter.

53. ANNOUNCER: I noticed the other day that the amount of lamb to be set-aside for the armed forces had been cut down a little. This will help keep meat supplies fairly stable, won't it?

54. DIST. REP: It should. The army was taking a fourth of the top grade lambs, between 30 and 70 pounds, going to federally inspected plants. Now that's been reduced to twenty percent... a cut of five percent.

55. ANNOUNCER: Wasn't this cut possible because allocation to the armed forces was running ahead of schedule?

56. DIST. REP: That's right. But here's another thing. At about the same time the lamb set-aside was reduced, WFA extended control to poultry shipped into this country. This is a further means of fulfilling requirements of the armed forces.

57. ANNOUNCER: I thought the armed forces were already getting most of the poultry.

58. DIST. REP: Not poultry being shipped in overland, by air or inland waterways from other countries.

59. ANNOUNCER: Oh, you're talking about import shipments. What countries does this new control cover?

60. DIST. REP: Mexico, Canada, El Salvador and Guatemala. It went into operation last Friday, June 15.

61 ANNOUNCER: So any poultry coming in from there now will be controlled by the War Food Administration to make sure G. I. needs are filled.

62. DIST. REP: Yes. Included are all chicken, guineas and turkeys. Whether they're fresh, chilled, frozen, dressed or not dressed, prepared or preserved, and no matter how imported, WFA will control them.

63. ANNOUNCER: You didn't mention live chickens, turkeys and guineas. Aren't they included?

64. DIST. REP: No. just the kind I mentioned.

65. ANNOUNCER: And the whole idea behind this new move is to be sure the armed forces get the poultry they need.

66. DIST. REP: That's right.

67. ANNOUNCER: The way I see the meat situation, it see-saws back and forth. Maybe production of one kind goes up, while at the same time production of another kind goes down, leaving about the same amount available.

68. DIST. REP: Not only meat, _____. That's true of nearly every kind of food you can think of. Production and distribution of food has always been a pretty tricky business, and of course, in wartime it's still a bigger problem.

69. ANNOUNCER: I can see how it is. Thanks, _____, for being with us today. Listen next _____ to FOOD FRONT HEADLINES... presented as a public service feature of Radio Station _____ in cooperation with War Food Administration, to bring you inside facts from authoritative sources about what's happening on the agricultural firing line.